



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

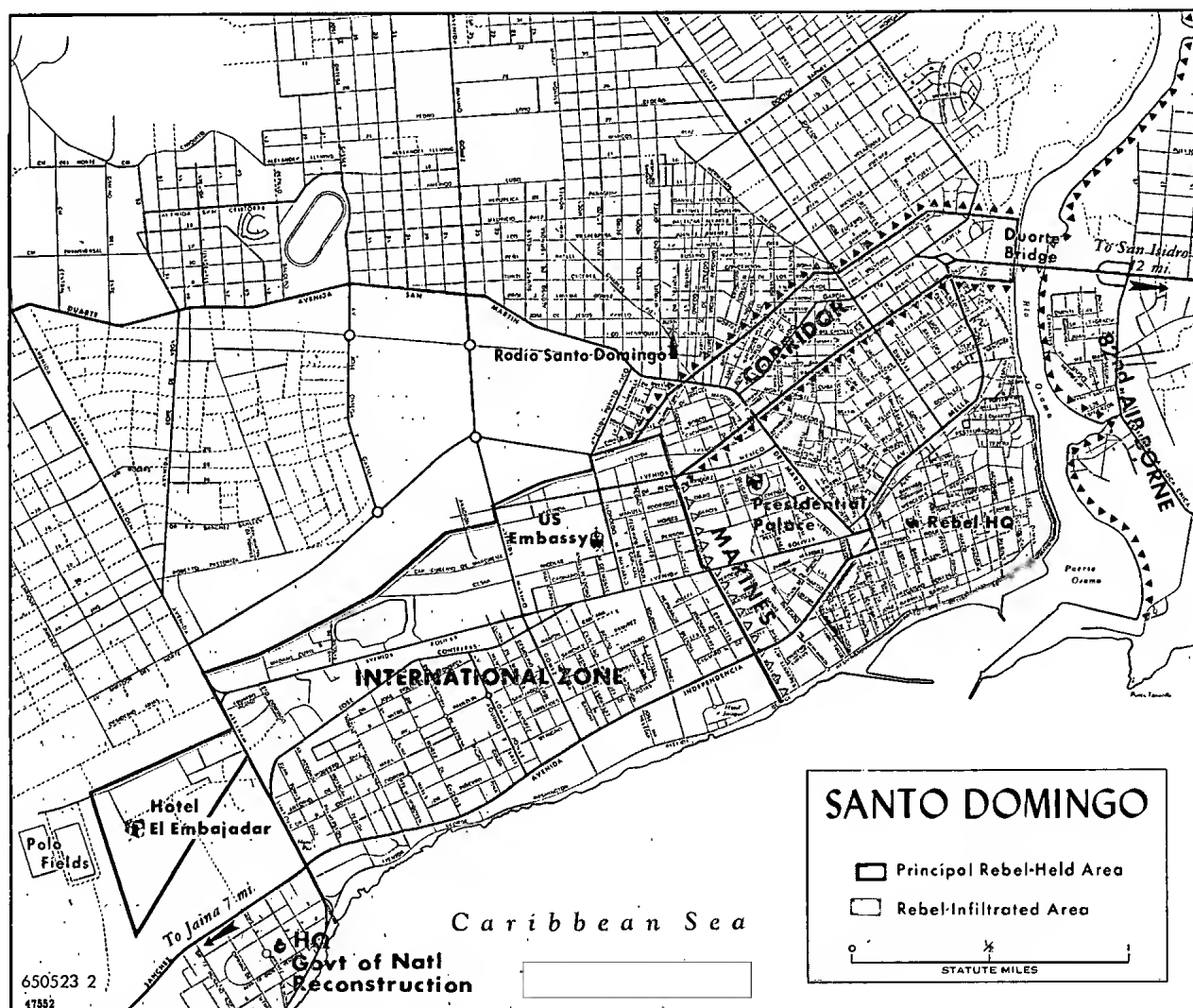
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



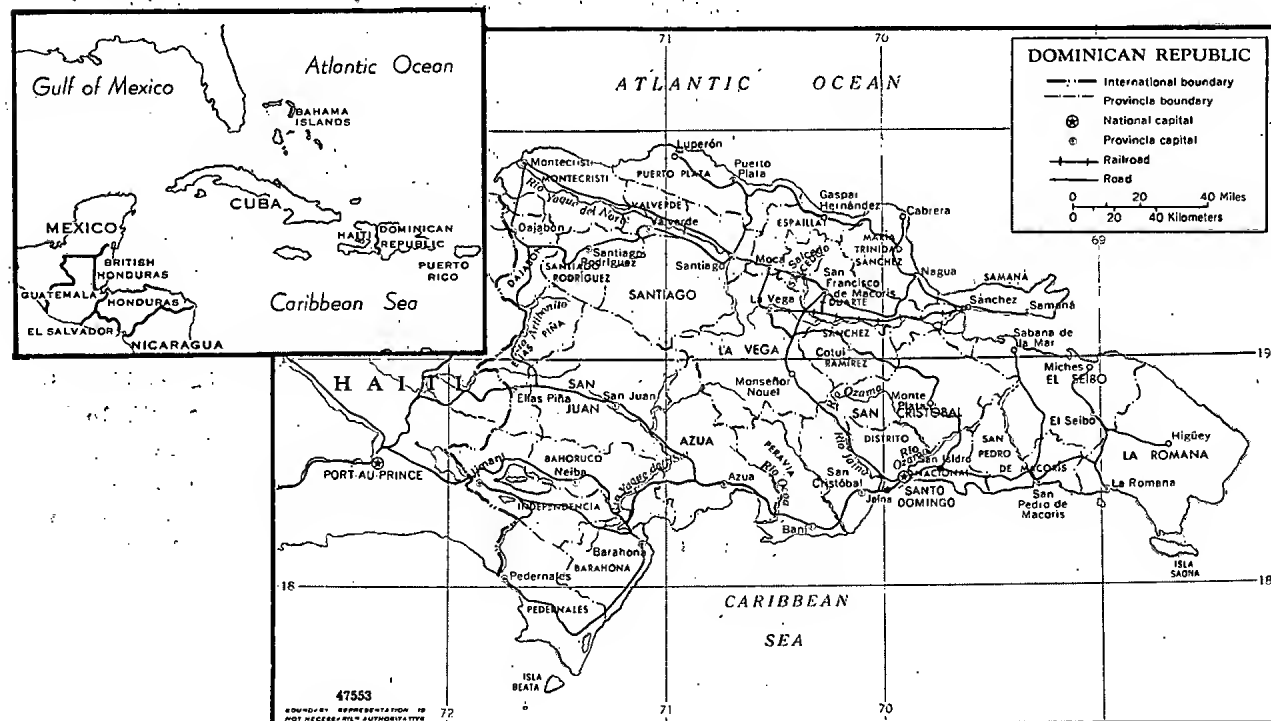
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31 MAY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
31 MAY 1965

LATE ITEM

Dominican Republic

There have been no new disturbances outside Santo Domingo, since yesterday's leftist-inspired demonstration at San Francisco de Macoris. Here, while police tried to control a crowd demonstrating before the police building, a group trying to enter from the rear to capture arms lost one member to police fire.

The longer the political stalemate endures, as the populace grows restless for a solution, the more likelihood there is that demonstrations of any stripe can lead to trouble. The heavy rains, however, may serve as a deterrent factor.

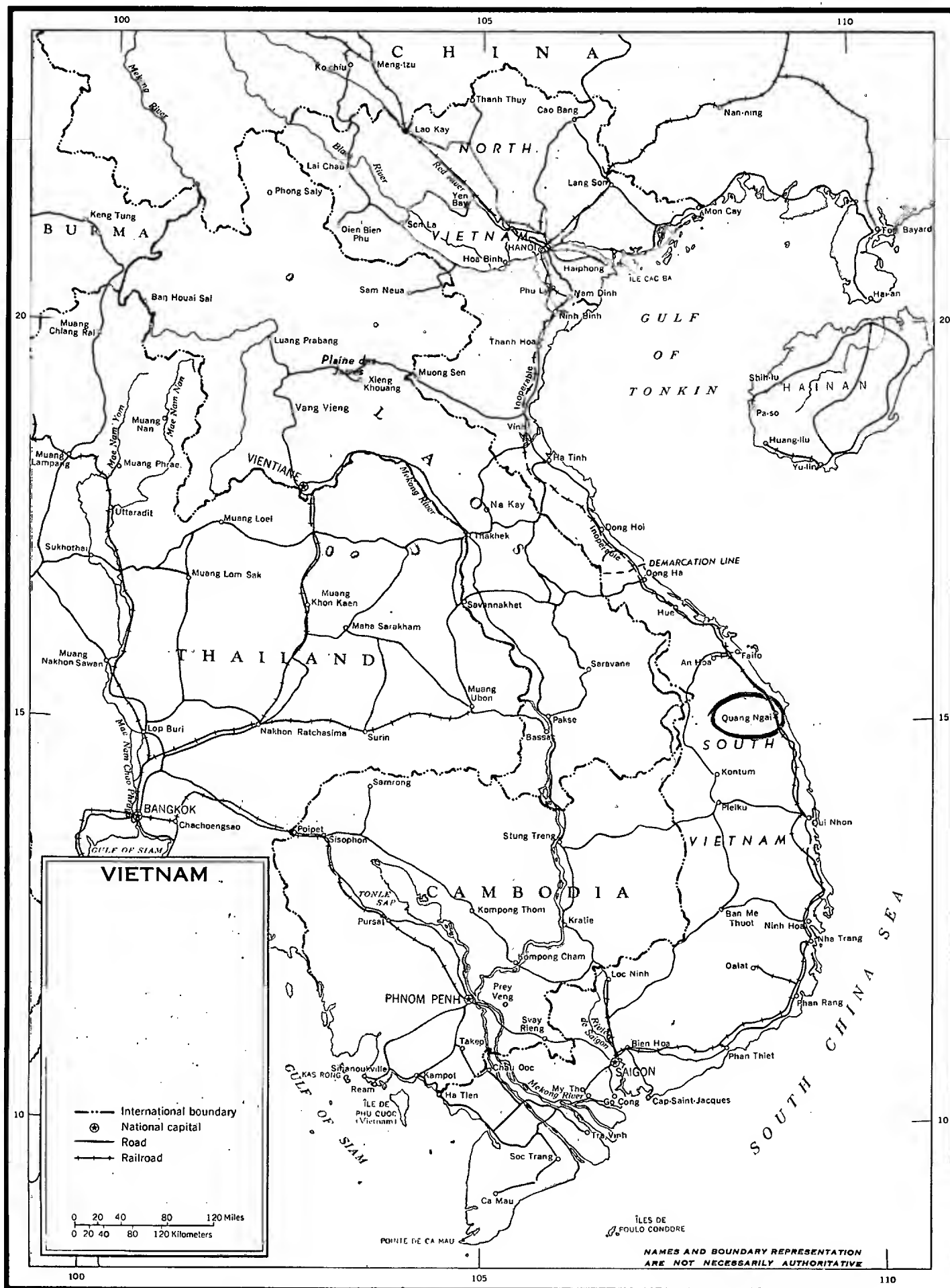
No reports have been received of any new incidents in Santo Domingo itself.

There is some indication that pressures may be growing for an expanded United Nations role in the search for a settlement, particularly now that both the Imbert and the Caamano camps are railing increasingly at Jose Mora of the Organization of American States.

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1. North Vietnam



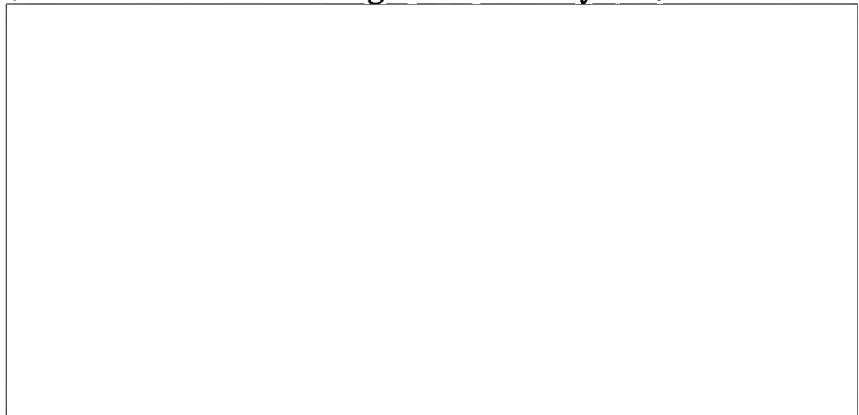
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2. South Vietnam

The cabinet crisis is still unresolved.

The National Legislative Council was to meet today on the constitutional question. No results of its outcome have been reported. The Council president, after a talk with Ambassador Taylor this morning, appeared prepared to push for a vote backing Premier Quat.



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South Vietnamese reinforcements have been brought into the area of Ba Gia in Quang Ngai Province, the scene of this weekend's heavy engagement.

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3. Bolivia

Barrientos has assured the US ambassador he intends to carry out reforms in the mines, and he appears determined to use force if necessary.

Mine leaders are reported searching desperately for some means to preserve their power and positions. They appear anxious to buy time by a truce or some other face-saving agreement, which they would probably break at the first sign of government weakness.

The miners may be counting on a Barrientos-Ovando showdown to give them new life. A victory by Barrientos would probably mean continued government control of the mines. If Ovando wins out, however--

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--the ensuing instability would work in the miners' favor.

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4. Communist China

Despite Peiping's denial, there is considerable circumstantial evidence suggesting that Mao Tse-tung may be ill.

Mao has not been seen in public since 14 March. He apparently did not receive North Vietnamese leaders during their visit to Peiping last month. He did not attend the 13 April funeral of politburo member Ko Ching-shih, a close colleague. Mao's picture was not included in a newspaper photo of a visiting Egyptian delegation, an exceptional omission. He also missed the May Day activities, but this has happened before.

Mao could be merely on vacation. These peculiarities of reporting on his activities, however, along with his advanced age (71)

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justify speculation that his health has suffered a serious decline.

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5. Syria

The power struggle within the Syrian Army may be coming to a head.

The contest between radical and relatively moderate elements has been smoldering for a long time. A controversy over policy toward Israel and the handling of the recent trial of an Israeli spy appears to be pushing the dispute to a climax. The result is unlikely to change the basic Baathist--Arab socialist--nature of the government, but a shuffling of the top military leadership may occur.

6. Japan

Japanese leftists are trying to capitalize on the widespread public opposition to US bombings of North Vietnam. Leftist intellectuals, socialists, and trade union leaders are now working with Communist Party officials to sponsor a protest demonstration on 9 June. This is the first united leftist effort on the national level since the riots of 1960, which caused the cancellation of President Eisenhower's visit.

7. France

The underground nuclear test in the Sahara has been postponed. The test was apparently first scheduled for today, but

there will be at least a few days' delay.

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